



"Schiffman, Elizabeth K. -
Environmental Health"
<Elizabeth.Schiffman@denve
rgov.org>

07/31/2008 12:58 PM

To Victor Ketellapper/EPR/R8/USEPA/US@EPA

cc

bcc

Subject Resident Letters

History: This message has been replied to.

Hi Victor,

Please find attached the letter and attachment that was mailed to key stakeholders this week to update them on the project. If you have any questions let me know.

Thanks,
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Schiffman
Program Administrator
VB/1-70 Community Health Program

Denver Environmental Health
201 W. Colfax Ave. Dept. 1009
Denver, CO 80202
720.865.5381



Abernethy Letter, 7-08.doc CHP Year 4 Summary.doc



Department of Environmental Health
Division of Environmental Quality

201 W. Colfax Ave, Dept. 1009
Denver, CO 80202
p: 720-865-5452
f: 720-865-5534
www.denvergov.org/deq

July 31, 2008

Claudia Abernethy
Clayton Neighborhood Association
3610 Adams St.
Denver, CO 80205

Dear Ms. Abernethy,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you that a community health worker from the VB/I-70 Community Health Program will be in your neighborhood again this summer doing home visits on a limited basis.

Through careful financial management of the Community Health Program, Denver Environmental Health (DEH) was able to end the program in the fall of 2007 with a surplus of funds. DEH and the VB/I-70 Program Staff proposed to EPA that those surplus funds be used to fund another year of the program and continue our work in the community. The EPA agreed to the proposal and is pleased to have another opportunity to inform residents about the site and its possible impacts on their community. Enclosed, please find a copy the Year 4 Workplan.

These visits will be targeted at two specific groups of properties: those whose soil was sampled and found to be elevated but never removed, and those whose soil was never sampled. For the properties with elevated soil levels that were never removed, we will be offering a visit that focuses on ways to reduce potential exposures from contaminated soil and prevent further contamination. For the properties that were not sampled, we will be offering a similar visit geared at lead poisoning prevention, as well as the option to have DEH collect and screen a soil sample. For the soil sampling we will be using the same protocol that the EPA used, and we will use an XRF instrument to screen the soil. These results will give the homeowner an idea of whether their soil is elevated for either lead or arsenic. Whatever the result, **neither EPA nor DEH are offering any soil clean-up. The results are for informational purposes only.**

The Community Health Program is happy to be able to continue to work in your community for another year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 720.865.5381 or Jay Salas at 720.865.5463.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Schiffman
Program Administrator
VB/I-70 Community Health Program
Denver Dept. of Environmental Health



VASQUEZ BUELEVARD / INTERSTATE 70 SUPERFUND SITE
OPERABLE UNIT 1 – RESIDENTIAL SOILS
COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM YEAR 4

The EPA, in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the City, conducted a clean-up of those residential soils within the VB/I-70 site that had elevated concentrations of lead and/or arsenic, in accordance with the September 23, 2003 Record of Decision (ROD). The site includes 4,863 residential properties, with 809 of those sampled requiring clean-up.

In order to carry out the cleanup, the EPA received access to properties from property owners, took samples of the soil, and tested it for lead and arsenic contamination. At those properties where EPA found soil contamination which met or exceeded the thresholds set out in the ROD, the agency also asked owners for permission to remove and replace the contaminated soil. The EPA, in collaboration with the CHP, made multiple attempts to contact the property owners, using both mail and home visits at the residence.

When the clean-up was complete, a small number of property owners had not provided voluntary access enabling the EPA to conduct the sampling and clean-up actions that the Record of Decision specified. As a result, the EPA has developed institutional controls to identify these properties, and therefore lessen the risk of potential exposure to current and future residents.

In order to implement these institutional controls, EPA is asking the City to do the following for all properties within the VB/I-70 site for which it was unable to complete the Remedial Action:

1. Notify property owners and residents annually of all properties not addressed by the Remedial Action;
2. Conduct soil screening for properties at the request of property owners;
3. Provide health information concerning lead and arsenic exposure; and
4. Add these properties to the appropriate city databases so that contractors and/or homeowners seeking a building permit are notified of the potential contamination issues.

In addition to soil sampling and remediation, the EPA and the City developed and implemented a Community Health Program for communities within the VB/I-70 site. The CHP was unique in that it combined the community health worker model with traditional site remediation activities, an approach that had not been previously attempted in the EPA CERCLA Program. The Program has received local and national attention, not only from the EPA, but by other government agencies and non-profit organizations. The EPA feels that the CHP may serve as a model for other programs, and as such, should be fully documented and evaluated. When complete, the program components and 'lessons learned' from the CHP's experience can be transferred and applied to a wide array of programs in other communities and settings both within the City of Denver and elsewhere.

In order to achieve this, the EPA is asking the City to:

5. Document and evaluate the CHP; and
6. Create a guide for developing and carrying out an effective and sustainable education and outreach program, capable of addressing an array of issues in other communities and settings.